

Maghreb summit planned in Algiers

TUNIS (R) — Five North African states are preparing for their first summit, which could be held next week around the time of full meeting of Arab heads of state in Algiers, Tunisian diplomatic sources said Friday. Diplomats have prevented a summit grouping Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria, but all now have diplomatic relations. Algeria and Morocco renewed ties last month and Libya and Tunisia did so in December. "We shall try to have a five-way summit. There is no definite agenda... but we are going to try to achieve it, either on the fringe (of the full summit), or afterwards," one senior diplomat told Reuters. The diplomat said he believed the 12-year-old Western Sahara was not dead. It affected North African cooperation. The war has caused serious rifts between Morocco, which claims the territory, and Algeria, which backs Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for the area's independence. "The summit would be a first step towards building a regional grouping which would set like a common market of North Africa," he added. "We are optimistic. We hope that it will take place and that it will at least, if it does not give rise to immediate results, produce guidelines for action," he said. Maghreb states look to Algiers summit for unity, page 51

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Sharaa briefed
on Moscow summit

DAMASCUS (AP) — Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa has held talks in Moscow that reflected the "convergence of the Syrian and Soviet points of view" on Middle East issues, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported Friday. The agency said Sharaa stopped off in Moscow Thursday night on his way back to Syria from an official visit to Japan and held talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. The news agency said the talks focused on the results of talks in Moscow between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kaddoumi to visit
Syria after summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) political department head Farouk Kaddoumi said in remarks published Thursday he would visit Damascus after next week's Arab summit in Algiers to resume dialogue with Syria. Kaddoumi denied rumours about new Syrian-LO differences. "Our ties with Damascus are good and our differences are exaggerated," he told Al Ittihad newspaper in an interview carried out in New York where he is attending a United Nations session on disarmament.

Israeli Labour
regains lead

TEL AVIV (AP) — A public opinion poll published Friday showed an increase in support for the Labour Party; a reversal of recent surveys showing the rival Likud bloc gaining because of fears of violence from the Palestinian uprising. The results of the poll, conducted this week by the private Telstar institute, showed that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party and its allies would win 53 seats in the 120-member Knesset. This contrasted with a Telstar poll in March, when the combined group was given 50 seats. The rival group of right-wing parties led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc was predicted to win 49 seats in the latest survey, as against 51 in the March polling.

Israel detains
Lebanese boat

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army captured a Lebanese boat allegedly carrying four tons of ashish stashed in automobile tires, the Israeli army said Friday. The boat "Susan," flying a Jordanian flag, was seized Thursday close to the Israeli shore. Police detained all six sailors aboard, nationals of Turkey, Somalia, Honduras, Sudan and Lebanon, for questioning.

Watch leaders
to visit Israel

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, who postponed a trip to Israel last month over the Israeli handling of the Palestinian uprising, will go ahead with the visit in July, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. A ministry spokeswoman said Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek would meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during the official visit July 19.

Tribunal court
charges Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk, the retired Ohio auto-worker sentenced to death by an Israeli court for being Nazi war crimes, has been charged by an Italian court with alleged war crimes in Italy, an Israeli attorney said Thursday. Demjanjuk was advised of the Italian proceedings against him in an official letter sent to him at his maximum security jail cell in the Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv, attorney Avron Beckerman told the Associated Press. The letter, signed by the criminal examination office in Trieste, said Demjanjuk had been charged with voluntary and continuous aggravated homicide in Trieste during the years 1943-1945.

An ASU statement Friday did

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday called on the United Nations to halt the Israeli nuclear build-up that threatened the Middle East and the world.

"Jordan looks to the United Nations as the appropriate forum through which effective measures must be taken to ensure that the Middle East region is kept free of nuclear weapons in such a way that Israel's military nuclear programme is halted and its nuclear weapons eliminated," the King said.

"In the absence of effective international determination, the King said, Israel has been able to maintain its occupation of the Arab land, disregarding international legitimacy."

Following are major excerpts from King Hussein's message:

"This session is a historical event, which serves more than one purpose. In addition to pursuing discussion of means of achieving disarmament, it presents another evidence on the importance of the subject and serves as an opportunity for

larily regional disputes — by peaceful means," the King said.

The King said that the Middle East region was suffering from a number of conflicts, the most dangerous of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict which has led to the current state of tension and instability caused by 40 years of Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and by Israel's denial of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

"The first half of this century has witnessed two world wars which brought an unprecedented havoc and destruction to the human race. The use of nuclear weapons was the most important development in the history of war.... Nuclear arms should prompt the whole world to have a lengthy pause, review its calculations and examining the unexpected results or its actions."

"The tendency of states to measure its security in accordance with the volume of its arsenal has led to the grave situation today in the world... fears, suspicion and lack of confidence...."



HM King Hussein

underlining our commitment to the principles on which the United Nations was created."

"The creation of the United Nations was the natural outcome of the Second World War when all nations called for forming an international body to serve as an active tool to cope with the world problems through a joint international will representing the hopes and aspirations of countries."

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Citing the superpower intermediate-range missile treaty and the Afghan accords reached in Geneva in April, the King said more work remained to be done.

"In order for the world to feel a real sense of reassurance, more progress must be made with regard to disarmament and the settlement of disputes — particu-

Reagan says Moscow summit heralded 'new era of history'

LONDON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said Friday his summits with Mikhail Gorbachev had begun "to take down the barriers" of the cold war, but vowed America would remain wary and strong as it seeks lasting changes in Soviet policies.

Reagan, delivering an overview of his first visit to the Kremlin, said he had discovered Gorbachev to be "a serious man seeking serious reform" and that the superpowers may be entering a "new era of history."

Though Gorbachev had expressed disappointment that an opportunity had been lost during this week's summit, Reagan said "tangible progress" had been made on a pact to reduce the stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons. Though aides say diffi-

cult obstacles remain, Reagan added, "such a treaty... is, I believe, now within our grasp."

His speech was delivered before an audience including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the grandeur of London's Guildhall. Reagan briefed Thatcher on the summit Thursday.

The president, addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs, said he was impressed by the warmth of his reception in the Soviet capital and the scope of reforms under way in a nation once called an "evil empire."

"To those of us familiar with the post-war era, all of this is a cause for shaking the head in wonder," he said.

Reagan, who leaves office next

secretary of the Soviet Union walking together in Red Square, talking about a growing personal friendship and meeting together, average citizens, realising how much our people have in common," he said.

Thatcher, heaping praise on Reagan in a subsequent speech, called the summit "very successful" and a personal triumph for him.

"The summit has brought us closer to the more stable and peaceful relationship between East and West that we all want to see," she said. "Indeed, I believe there is now more hope between East and West than ever before in the lifetime of most of us here."

(Continued on page 5)

Berri disbands Amal militia

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri Friday disbanded his Amal militia after its defeat in a bloody power struggle with pro-Iranian fundamentalists in Beirut's southern slums last month, radio stations reported.

They said Berri announced his decision at a news conference at his heavily fortified house in west

Beirut that was attended only by representatives of the local media, the broadcast said.

The international media was not allowed to attend and Berri's aides said "it was just a routine meeting between Mr. Berri and the local press," according to the AP.

Berri told the news conference that Amal decided to "dissolve all

militiamen in the Amal movement in all Lebanon except the south and ask them to join Amal's regular army."

Shiite sources said Amal has an estimated 30,000 militiamen in Lebanon and around 2,000 other fighters who form its "regular army," deployed at the green line battlefield splitting Beirut into east and west.

The statement said the raid was a breach of Iraq's unilateral halt to attacks on civilian areas since April 20 and was intended to restart the "war of the cities." But Iraq would not retaliate immediately.

Each side has accused the other of violating the informal truce in the missile and air raids on civilian centres which claimed hundreds of lives.

The Iraqi statement did not explain how the plane flew undetected all the way from the border, 180 kilometres to the east.

But military analysts say, flying at ground level, an F-4 could evade radar nets.

The attempt was reported

hardly 24 hours after Iran's revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, appointed the powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, acting commander-in-chief. The post had been held by Khomeini himself since the takeover of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Iranian planes targeted Tikrit several times early in the war, but it has not been attacked in recent years.

Political sources said the Iranian might have thought Husein

sein would be at home on Friday's Muslim weekend holiday.

The statement said the attack was also intended to "cover up Iran's defeats at the battlefield after years of failure."

The embassy was referring to the Association pour les Services d'Urgences (ASU) security company which is linked to and trained by the main rightist Falange Party's militia.

"Our preliminary conclusion is that it was not a planned ambush or assassination attempt," Oakley said. "No U.S. or Lebanese personnel at the embassy were wounded. We have no reports of anyone else was injured."

An ASU statement Friday did

Iranian F-4 tries to hit residence of Saddam Hussein

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Iranian F-4 fighter-bomber

Friday tried to bomb Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's residence north of Baghdad, but ground defences chased the aircraft away, the Iraqi military command announced.

The statement said no-one

was injured.

It did not say whether Hus

sein or any of his family were at

the house in Al Ouja village

near the town of Tikrit, 200

kilometres north of the capital,

during the 5:55 a.m. (0155

GMT) raid.

Anti-aircraft fire drove off

the plane after it dropped its

bomb load on a nearby area,

the statement said.

Baghdad Television inter-

rupted normal programmes to

broadcast the news, issued af-

ter a meeting of the ruling Revo-

lutionary Command Council and the Baath Party re-

gional leadership chaired by

Hussein.

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Settler kills West Bank villager

Palestinians stage 3-day strike to protest Shultz visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— Jewish settlers killed a West Bank villager Friday

as Palestinians began a three-day

strike to protest against a return



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is being received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Abu Odeh, and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zaid (Petra photo)

Crown Prince returns

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman on Thursday evening at the end of an economic and trade investment tour in the United States. Prince Hassan had attended the opening of an investment seminar in Atlanta, Georgia and another

one at Pittsburgh advocating Jordanian-U.S. business relations and promoting economic and trade ties between the two countries. Upon his return to Amman the Prince was greeted by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, and other officials.

France honours Jordanian officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The French Ambassador to Jordan, Patrick Leclercq, has presented decorations in the "Ordre des Arts et Lettres" to the former Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Mohamed Al Khatib, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Nasri Attala, and to Mrs. Mira Khoury from the Ministry of Tourism.

The decorations are related to their contribution to the organisation of the exhibition "La Voie Royale, 9000 ans d'art au Royaume de Jordanie" which took place in Paris during the winter 1986/87 and was an outstanding success which attracted

tens of thousands of visitors who discovered the exceptional richness of Jordan's archaeological heritage as well as contemporary aspects of pictorial creation in the Kingdom, therefore contributing to its better knowledge and encouraging the development of tourism.

The French ambassador paid tribute to the role that the personalities receiving the decorations had taken, in the various aspects of their activities, in the reinforcement of the excellent relations enjoyed today by France and Jordan and welcomed the testimony of gratitude that the French authorities had decided to bestow upon them.

U.S. scholar to speak on alternative energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Thomas Stauffer, Adjunct Professor for Energy Studies at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, will be visiting Amman June 7 and 8 under the auspices of the American Cultural Centre's Speakers Programme. During his visit the Natural Resources Authority will host two public lectures by him:

On Tuesday, June 7 at 12 noon, Dr. Stauffer will speak on "Natural Resources Availability" at the offices of the Natural Resources Authority. On Wednesday, June 8, at 5:00 p.m., he will speak on "Alternative Energy Resources" in the auditorium of the Ministry of Energy. Both lectures will be in English and are open to the public.

Dialogue on U.S. elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Wednesday, June 8, at 3:00 p.m., the American Centre in Amman will receive a broadcast of a call-in television conference on the U.S. presidential elections. The programme, being broadcast from Washington D.C., over the Worldnet television system, will feature a roundtable discussion of the California primaries by a panel of journalists and commentators. Viewers in Jordan and other

countries may call the Washington studio during the programme with questions and remarks for panel members.

The programme host will be Paul Duke, a noted political commentator and host of the weekly news programme "Washington Week in Review." Other panel member will be Andrew J. Glass, Bureau Chief of Cox Newspapers:

UNRWA teachers freeze demands

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Some 4,000 teachers working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), now involved in a dispute with the agency's administration over wages and conditions of services, have decided to temporarily freeze their earlier decision to suspend strike at schools, a memorandum issued by the teachers executive committee said on Wednesday.

Addressing UNRWA's Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli, the teachers, said in their memorandum that while postponing their action for the interest of students, they will still

boycott all UNRWA officials for three days beginning Tuesday.

The memo, signed by the teachers executive committee chairman Adnan Hamad said that the committee will postpone its measure until the beginning of the new scholastic year to allow UNRWA administration enough time to study their case and respond to their demands as specified in a letter sent early in May by UNRWA's staff union in the region to the agency's commissioner.

The chairman of UNRWA's staff union Fayed Abu Aqlain had sent a letter to Giacomelli May 15, briefing him on the dispute.

The union includes all UNRWA staff unions in the agency's

area of operations, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The union's membership totals 17,000.

In his letter Abu Aqlain has said that the agency did not honour a previous agreement with the staff, that provided for undertaking salary surveys from time to time and in comparison with civil servants and other local employees.

He called on the commissioner general to reconsider the survey policy and to reactivate the agreement.

He further called on the top UNRWA official to cause the inter-staff union to convene, noting that it has not met for more

than two years. Abu Aqlain asked that the conference be held during the second week of July, either in Amman or Damascus, and that Arab members to the Provident Fund's Advisory Commission be present to report on the fund's new investment policy. The staff representative also called on the commissioner general to effect payments of all amounts due to the staff, as a result of the agency's austerity measures that included the suspension of increases and allowances that the agency's staff used to enjoy.

However, UNRWA officials maintained that the wages and security benefits offered to their teachers are better than those offered to local teachers.

Jordanian film acclaimed at West German film week



Mr. Mohammed Allouh (right) in conversation with the president of the 34th West German Short Film Festival's International Jury Mr. Ambros Eichenberger (left) and the Director of the Mannheim International Film Week Fee Vaillant (centre) (Photo INP/Mathew)

Germany have shown interest in buying the film.

Allouh says that by selling his film, he hopes to raise the finances for his next film which is in the planning stage. It also deals with the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan. He thanked the organisers of the film festival for inviting his film to this "Mecca of short films" and said that its screening in the competition programme had further enhanced its international prestige. Al Hida had already won the honours of the Krakau short and documentary film festival in Poland and a short film festival in Jordan.

Allouh, who had directed several video productions and TV programmes for Jordan television, spoke of the lack of facilities in his country for film-making and expressed the view that short and documentary films deserved much greater attention.

He pointed out that Al Hidae was the first film made in Jordan for several years. Because of the difficulty to get film and equipment many directors are turning to video production. His film was made with the support of the Jordanian Artists' Association and most of its work including direction, script-writing and film montage were done by Allouh himself. He was assisted only by a cameraman and a sound engineer.

The Jordanian director, who attended the Oberhausen Short Film Week for the first time, said he was highly impressed by the organisation of the film festival. He is now quite convinced about the short film week's importance for developing nations, especially for those whose film industry is at a very early stage of development. The Oberhausen film festival is doing a great contribution towards the development of the national film industries of Asian, African and Latin America. The regional focus was this time devoted to Latin America from where 43 films provided a comprehensive view of the

different shades and new trends of film production in this region.

The Arab cinema received considerable attention this time as a result of the competition screenings of Al Hidae, the Somali entry Gedeka Nolosha (the tree of life) by Abdulkadir Ahmed Said and the Tunisian film Suer (Sweat) by Nagazi Amor. Gedeka Nolosha emerged as one of the most successful participant among the 94 films from 37 countries competed by winning two top awards and a total cash prize of DM 4,000. The Tunisian entry was honoured with the second prize of the jury of the International Film Critics (IPRESC).

The presence of the directors of these competition entries as well as film-makers and critics from Egypt, Syria and Tunisia helped to boost public interest in this year's show of Arab films.

The film festival's highest honour, the Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen, endowed with DM 5,000, was awarded this time to the Soviet competition entry Wozwraschenie (the return) and the Canadian film Our Marilyn.

By K.M. Mathew

Britain donates computers to Jordanian schools

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The ministry of education has received 12 microcomputers as a gift from the British government to be used for training students at Jordanian schools.

The gift was formally presented to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouran Hindawi at the ministry's computer department on Thursday by British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve in the presence of senior ministry officials.

Hindawi expressed the government's appreciation to Britain for the gift and praised the existing ties of cooperation between the United Kingdom and Jordan in educational fields, in general and computer-training programmes in particular.

In his speech on the occasion Hindawi reviewed the ministry of education's programmes in introducing computer training courses to schools. The ambassador, for his part, voiced his government's deep satisfaction with the ties of cooperation between the two sides in educational fields.

The computers, handed to the ministry on Thursday, are identical to those now being provided to the Kingdom's secondary schools under the United Kingdom-Jordan loan agreement. The director of the ministry's syllabus department said that the British computers will be installed at 90 additional schools, thus raising the total number of schools with computer training programmes in the Kingdom to 160.

Among those attending the presentation ceremony was Dr. Munther Al Masri, Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and the British Council representative in Amman.

through films between different cultures, the 34th short film week featured a major exposition of the Third World cinema and brought film-makers even from some remote parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The regional focus was this time devoted to Latin America from where 43 films provided a comprehensive view of the

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran Programme review
15:55 Cartoons and children programmes
17:55 Olympic Games
18:10 Local series
19:00 Message from Iraq
19:10 Family programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic series
21:30 Local programme
22:05 Arabic play
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 French Open tennis championship from Paris (live)
18:30 French programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Un DB de plus
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 Mr. Belvedere
21:00 Magazine II
21:10 Man and Music (documentary)
22:00 News in English
22:10 Feature film: "The proud and damned"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM & partly on 2660 KHz, SW
Tel: 74111-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newscast
08:00 Newscast
08:30 News Summary
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Hitville: The Story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumental/Old favourites
17:00 Special Features
17:30 Good Old Days
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:30 News/Music
18:45 The Young Sound
19:00 Discovering Music
21:00 The Musical in Review
22:00 Count Music
23:00 Classical Concerts
24:00 Close Down

countries may call the Washington studio during the programme with questions and remarks for panel members.

The programme host will be Paul Duke, a noted political commentator and host of the weekly news programme "Washington Week in Review." Other panel member will be Andrew J. Glass, Bureau Chief of Cox Newspapers:

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

* A permanent exhibition of plastic art by 27 Arab artists at the Plaza Hotel.

* An art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Fakhruddin Zeid at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

* A lecture by Dr. Sabri Nasr entitled "The Beauty of the Daba's Marble. Colouration and Mineralization" at the Goethe Institute at 2:00 p.m.

* Cultural evening at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation by Mahmoud Al Riniawi at 6:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel: 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
American Centre Library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637006
Goethe Institute .. 644393
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 624049
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Hitachi Youth City .. 607186
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.A. .. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the anti-

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (08) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Muscat (GF)
14:00 Dammam (SA)
14:30 Kuwait (LN)
17:00 Riyadh (SV)
20:45 Damascus (AZ)
22:45 Kuwait (RJU)

07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

10:00 Aqaba (RJ)

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14:00 Dammam (SA)

14:30 Kuwait (LN)

17:00 Riyadh (SV)

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREES: A royal decree was issued Thursday endorsing the amendment affecting the law on Armed Forces' cadres, in addition to the salaries and promotions of the General Security men. Another royal decree was also issued approving the amendment of the law dealing with construction in cities and villages. The decree stipulates for alleviating restrictions on construction permits in rural areas.

GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Friday patronised Al Saadah secondary girls school graduation celebration and presented certificates to 12 graduate students.

GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid Thursday presented diplomas to a new batch of graduates of the Rosary School for Girls at the Palace of Culture in Amman.

GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Wednesday presented diplomas to the graduates of Al Ahliya School for Girls and Bishop School for Boys at the Palace of Culture in Al Hussein Sports City. Bishop School Director Jeries Halasa delivered a speech praising the achievements Jordan attained under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

MEETING: Transport and Communications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan Thursday received Indonesian Ambassador in Amman Mr. Garnawan. During the meeting they discussed means to promote cooperation in the field of transport and communications.

DELEGATION: Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabil Al Nimer Thursday left for Tunis to lead a delegation representing the Jordanian government to a commemorative celebration in honour of late Khalil Al Wazir.

BULGARIAN GUEST: Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayed Thursday received Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Secretary Demetro Stanishev. They discussed, in the presence of the Bulgarian Ambassador in Jordan, bilateral relations particularly on the parliamentary level.

AGRICULTURE: The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan organised a field day in the Jordan Valley on growing tomato and cucumber in fine sand. The College of Agriculture had carried out several experiments in association with the French government in this regard. These experiments bore positive results.

TRANSFERRED: Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Ali Khreis Thursday met with Speaker of the Syrian People's Council Abdul Qadir Oaddurah, Trade and Commerce Minister Mohammad Al Amadi, and Information Minister Mohammad Salman at the conclusion of his tour of duty in Syria.

FAMILY PLANNING: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Thursday discussed with chairman and members of the Family Planning Society issues pertaining to family care and birth spacing and its positive effects on the family and the society at large.

TRAINING: Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund has organised a five-day training course for school supervisors in Karak and Tafileh governorates on methods of teaching slow learners at the government schools. The five day course, which was organised in cooperation with the Karak branch of the disabled welfare society, included lectures and theoretical and practical applications of the modern methods in dealing with slow learners and discovering their talents and mental abilities.

CERTIFICATES: Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi Thursday presented certificates to 14 agricultural extension workers, who have completed a training course held at the ministry. The course aimed at acquainting the agricultural extension workers in Zarqa River Basin Development project on the duties assigned to them at the project.

WATER: Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakhan Thursday briefed the water department staff in Zarqa on the new organisational structures of the Water Authority of Jordan, aimed to ease decentralisation and define duties of each department and improve staff performance.

Ministry of Education finalises preparation for 89 school year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has completed all preparations for the coming 1988-1989 scholastic year in the accordance to the resolutions adopted by the first Jordanian educational conference held in Amman last September. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi announced Friday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that preparations cover all arrangements for appointment, transfer and secondment of men and women teachers — a process finalised at such an early date for the first time in the Kingdom's history.

These arrangements have been taken before the end of the current scholastic year so as to avoid any confusion or complication for the ministry or its education de-

partments and teachers, long before the commencement of the new school year and also to enable schools to start lessons on the first day of the coming year, on mid August, Hindawi noted.

Hindawi said that ministry officials have been busy over the past months working out the new arrangements in accordance with a carefully studied plan for the implementation of the educational conference's resolutions.

According to the minister, arrangements have been made for spending up to 1,479 teachers to Arab Gulf states in the coming year. These, he said, will be employed in Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, North Yemen, and Saudi Arabia.

The minister said that teachers' transfer between the Kingdom's different regions will take into account teachers' preference and

educational needs.

He also said that first-graders to be admitted to government schools should be six years of age by Dec. 31 in the year of admission and that directors of education departments in cooperation with local governors will be charged with ensuring that eligible children are all admitted to school and allowed to acquire compulsory education at the primary and preparatory levels.

Hindawi announced that new teachers of both sexes will be employed to work at schools but priority will be given to those holding higher university degrees, and those graduating as far back as 1980 and onwards. He said that the chance will be open also for community college graduates to get employment and university graduates to get part time jobs at schools.

Abu Nuseir to get 8 kindergartens

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Housing Corporation will set up eight kindergartens and nurseries for children at Abu Nuseir housing estate to accommodate about 1,500 children, according to the corporation director Yousef Hiyasat.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, released Friday, Hiyasat said that the corporation has opened the door for investors to set up the project within the Abu Nuseir housing estate for the benefit of the local residents.

Prospecting investors have until the end of June 1988 to offer bids to the corporation for setting up the new buildings at the estate and if approved they will be offered six months to carry

out their projects. Hiyasat noted.

He said that investors can set up buildings and the cost of these buildings will be considered as an advance payment of rent to the corporation spread over a period of years to be agreed upon with the corporation.

The bids, he added, should clearly contain details about specifications and designs

Mobile litterers will be fined

AMMAN (Petra) — Motorists, passengers and all users of vehicles in the Kingdom will be liable to heavy fines if caught throwing trash on the roads or travelling in improper or indecent clothing, according to new measures introduced by the Public Security Department (PSD).

A PSD statement issued Thursday said that people dumping trash from vehicles in motion or stationary will be fined up to JD 50.

Ministry studies children health

MAAN (Petra) — A team from the Health Ministry has embarked on a week-long tour of the Maan Governorate to determine the number of children receiving inoculation against infectious diseases and to conduct a study on the mortality rate among

the local population.

The campaign coincides with another one carried out by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society to offer urgent assistance to poor and needy families in Maan and other towns and villages in the Kingdom.

NHF, JCO to breed bees in Karak

AMMAN (Petra) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) will jointly finance a project for bee breeding and the production of honey at Al

Aina district near the Mazar Janoubi in the Karak Governorate.

The project will be carried out in cooperation with the local women union at Mu'ab.



His Majesty the King watering the tree of life at the Martyrs' Monument

King attends Armed Forces day

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday attended a ceremony organised by the Armed Forces on the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversaries.

The ceremony was held at the Martyrs' Monument, with the attendance of the King's sons Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Faisal. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed

Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior government officials and high ranking army officers.

King Hussein reviewed the guard of honour and watered the olive tree, in the monument's grounds.

Later King Hussein distributed medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces and Public Intel-

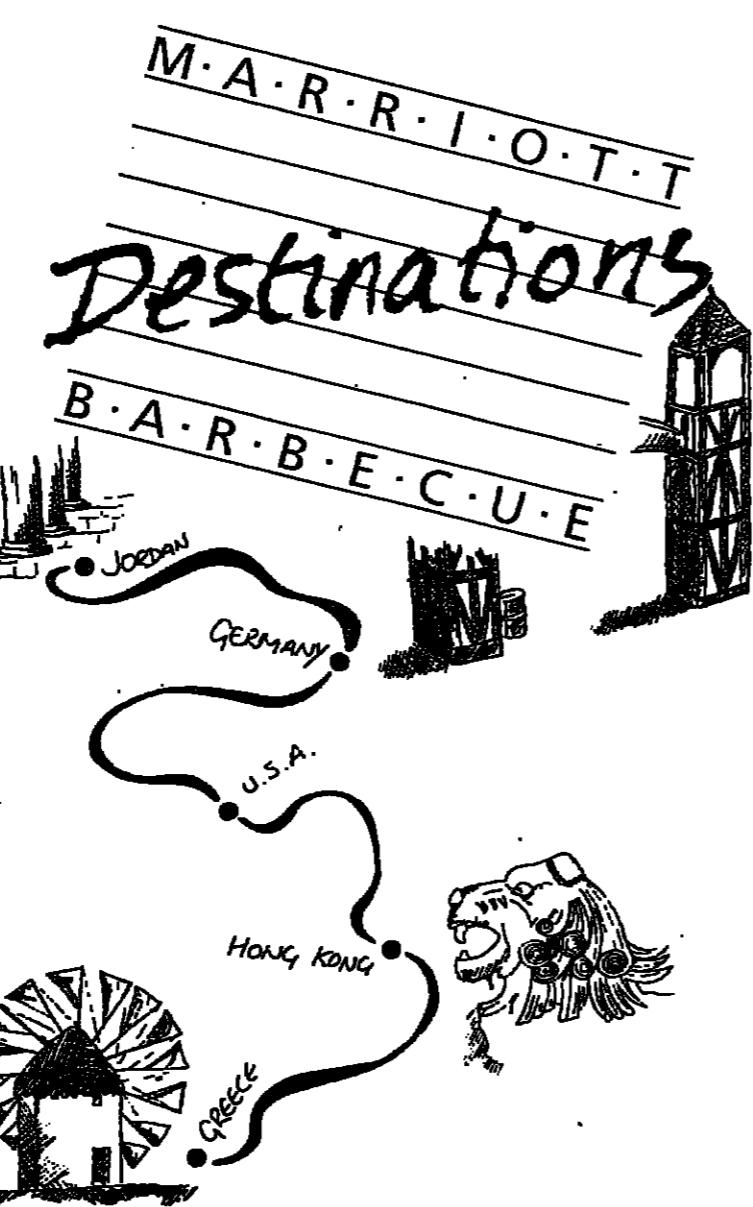
ligence and Civil Defence departments at a ceremony held at the Sports City and met with well-wishers who included prominent Jordanian figures, heads of bedouin tribes, heads of diplomatic missions, senior government officials and other guests.

King Zaid hosted a lunch at the Sports City in honour of the King attended by a large number of guests.



The King decorates army officers

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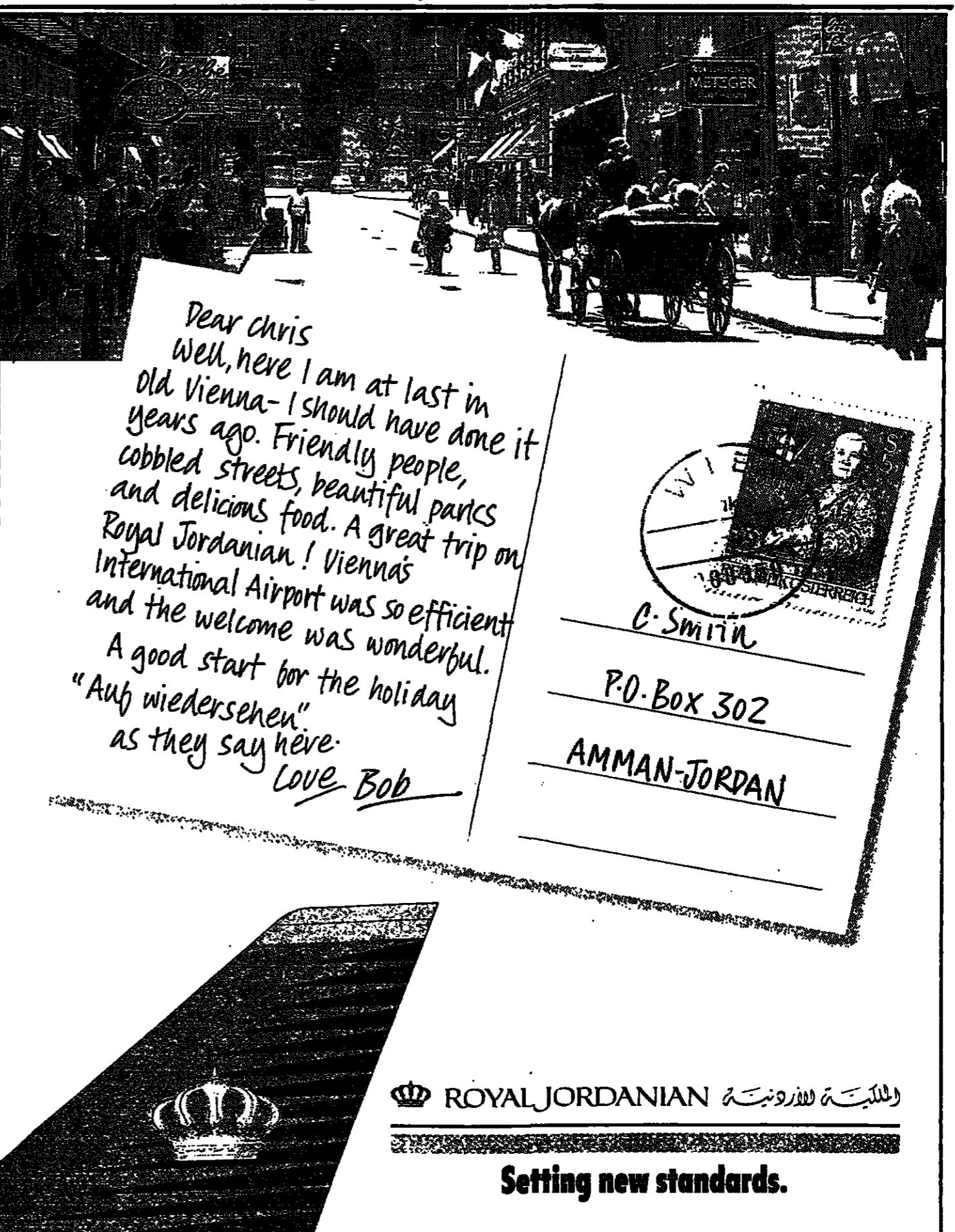
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Rabah-Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Forum for dialogue

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Thursday celebrated its 18th anniversary, with its staff pledging to remain dedicated to the task of serving the readers and providing the best possible daily publication, acting as a forum for free thinking and free expression. On this anniversary, the paper highly values His Majesty King Hussein's support for the national press and appreciates the support it continues to draw from its Jordanian readers. The paper and its staff take pride in this support and pledge to maintain the utmost degree of diligence and hard work, benefiting national interests. This paper will remain faithful to the national unity, to the Arab Nation, adhering to human values and more committed to its belief in free expression and free journalism and the right of all people to know the various developments on the national, pan-Arab and world scenes. The *Al Ra'i* Arabic daily has always been a staunch supporter of the people struggling to regain their usurped lands in Palestine and it will maintain the momentum in this direction, advocating the Arab causes and reflecting the Arab Nation's aspirations in achieving liberation of usurped lands. This paper will remain, as it had always been, faithful and loyal to the King, and the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Much of the same

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is scheduled to arrive in the Middle East Friday at the start of yet another tour of the region to advocate the new U.S. proposals for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the light of previous tours and talks, it is hard for us to expect that the new tour will be different from the earlier ones, specially since the U.S. and Israel still adhere to their former stands and still showing intransigence to Arab demands for a just and durable settlement. It is useful, however, to remember the six-point document given to Shultz by King Hussein which outlined clearly the Arab Nation's point of view and the Arab just stand with regard to the issue. If the U.S. secretary of state has absorbed the full meaning of the document and is now about to look into means of implementing its provisions, then his initiative could achieve some degree of success. But if Shultz is coming back to the region under the same illusion of imposing Israel's blueprint solution on the Arabs, his tour will not meet a better fate than the earlier ones. It should be emphasised that the bases of a just and durable peace are quite clear to all and there should be no need for wasting more time and effort on pointless and fruitless attempts that lead nowhere. We do not want to see the U.S. showing off itself as a country that has exerted all possible efforts in this respect, while at the same time it is in fact acting to serve the interests of Israel alone.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's irresponsibility

ISRAEL'S intransigent position with regard to a Middle East solution is responsible for the present paralysis in the American stand; and Israel's rejection of the idea of an international conference is bound to keep the problem as complicated as ever. Yitzhak Shamir's latest statements about the current situation and his rejection of peace through an international conference, as projected by the Soviet leader at the superpower summit in Moscow, show beyond doubt that Israel is determined to thwart any international effort towards real peace. Israel had wanted Reagan to discuss the question of Soviet Jews and their emigration to Israel, and it sought to prevent the U.S. from taking up the Arab-Israeli conflict in detail at the summit. The Israelis want the U.S. to defend the human rights of the Soviet Jews but to continue to ignore the human rights of the Palestinian people. Israel, above all, does not want Moscow to have any dealings with the Arab-Israeli conflict since this super power continues to advocate the idea of an international conference.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Uprising endures

ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted before the Knesset that the Palestinian uprising is still alive and the fire cannot be far below the ashes. This admission means that the Israeli authorities realize too well the Palestinian people's potential, and that the uprising is only one manifestation of his potential. But instead of taking a positive stand that could end the violence, Rabin said that Israel would continue to ignore the Arab people's demand for freedom, and would continue to follow the same iron-fist policy in confronting further protests in the occupied Arab lands. Rabin said that he would try to find Palestinians who might be willing to negotiate with the Israeli government; but it is a known fact that the Palestinians would want to have talks through the PLO, their sole representative, and would like to see an international peace conference convened for the sake of achieving peace. The Palestinian and the Arab people and the world at large realize that it is Israel which continues to reject peace offers and the projected conference and continues to deny the Palestinian people their rights in their homeland. If Rabin thinks that he can quell anti-Israeli protests by finding an alternative to the PLO among the Palestinians, he is wrong and has most probably not learnt anything from past lessons.

Al Dustour: Superpower agreement?

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev's statements about the Middle East following the Moscow superpower summit call for optimism, because they demonstrate some degree of agreement between Washington and Moscow about resolving the Middle East issue. Both sides have officially agreed on the need for holding an international peace conference although they still differ about the terms of reference of such a conference and the character of the participating delegations. This situation is bound to place Israel in an embarrassing situation, making it more isolated than ever before. This lack of consensus about the Middle East question is bound to open the way, to some extent, for real progress towards ending Israel's intransigent position and its rejection of the idea of peace based on justice. In addition, Gorbachev's optimistic statement about the whole issue indicates that neither side of the superpowers plans to polarise the situation in the troubled region. This in turn would not open the way for a suitable atmosphere, enabling Moscow to embark on its own initiative to resolve the problem. Any future Soviet moves in this direction are welcome by the Arabs because they would lead to a successful result.

Reflection on the intifada

The International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP) undertook a fact-finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza to gather first-hand information on the status of the current uprising and to meet representatives of non-governmental groups there in order to ascertain their needs and perspectives on the crisis. The delegation of four included Dr. Don Betz, chairman of the ICCP, Palestine Human Rights Campaign (USA); Dr. Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun, French NGO committee; Dr. Jim Graff, NCECF (Canada) and Hans Christian Knaevelsrød, Palestine Groups of Norway. This is an abbreviated summary of their conclusions.

1. The uprising that commenced in the early days of December 1987 is more than a full scale rebellion. It is a social and political revolution.

2. The response is universal, spreading throughout the region into the smallest hamlets secluded from the publicity of the Western media. This call to action is embraced by almost everyone, with each resisting the occupation according to his/her ability and situation. They realise that there is no turning back, no return to the *status quo ante*. This solidarity cuts across regional, socio-economic, confessional, sexual and political barriers.

The *intifada* is coordinated, disciplined, and capable of generating widespread public resistance to the grip of occupation — a tactic the Palestinians have judged vital to sustaining the uprising.

The role of the United Nations Command, and the institutional development connecting grassroots efforts, may be the most enduring aspect of the revolt, beyond the individual and collective courageous acts of resistance themselves. Organisation is pervasive, reaching into almost every home and, more importantly, into every heart. The discipline exhibited over the last five months must be attributed to this leadership, the subordination of prior factional interests to unified actions and a strong communications network.

The Palestinians are providing alternative services for themselves in banking, food supplies, education, mail and other communication. The ultimate goal is self-determination, to wean the people from the suffocating fabric of their existence. Areas have had water lines cut, electricity turned off, and all communication with the outside world severed. Destruction of homes is an

instrument of public policy as a form of collective punishment without evidence ever being presented and contested in a court. So many persons are detained and jailed that they are being utilised as free labour to build their own jails.

All these measures are undertaken by a political system that Western conventional wisdom has crowned the "only democracy in the region."

5. The uprising is contributing to the changing role of women in society. They assume important role in the neighbourhood and camp committees, the organisational infrastructure of the *intifada*.

6. The situation in Gaza deserves special attention. From the moment we crossed the border into Gaza, the mood changed.

Crowds of small "children of the stones" gathered on street corners and controlled the traffic with their implied threat of pelting the vehicles of the unfriendly and the unsympathetic. Our clandestine meetings with neighbourhood and camp committee representatives reinforced perceptions that Gaza was under siege. Testimonies of abuse and oppression abounded. Everyone we visited produced tear gas canisters made in the USA that had been fired into their homes. It was clear that the measures employed by the occupying authorities to subdue this uprising have been extreme.

7. The role of the PLO was confirmed in our interviews. Each individual declared that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinians, and only Palestinians can choose their leaders. There was criticism of the March raid on the bus at Dumona as ill-timed, ill-conceived and counterproductive. But there was no attempt to disassociate themselves from the PLO. Leaders make mistakes, we were told, just like any other people. They were not willing to withdraw their sup-

determination by strengthening their common will. There appears to be no desire to retreat. Many see Palestine being reborn in the suffering all are bearing.

8. For those resisting the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza and for those Palestinians living in Israel proper, the United States and its policy of unequivocal support for Israel is a major impediment to realising their national aspirations. The "marriage" of the USA and Israel is known to all.

One investigator has stated that chemical war crimes against the Palestinian people cannot be ruled out. This matter was brought to the attention of the United Nations by the ICCP for immediate inquiry.

For the people of the West Bank and Gaza, the Shultz plan is dead. On their lips and on the walls, the message was unmistakable — boycott the plan. They have not missed the irony of a U.S. secretary of state in search of peace in the Middle East at a time when the U.S. government, shamed by a Congress so hopelessly susceptible to pro-Israel lobbying, moves to close the PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations.

9. The *intifada* is now five months old. It was clear to the ICCP mission that the Palestinian people have stood up and seized the initiative in order to shape their future. The indomitable spirit is evident in the children, in the merchants, the intellectual elite, the clergy from both faiths. It is alive in the field workers and the unskilled urban labourers. It lives amid the squalor of the camps and in the dreams and

actions of a phalanx of Palestinian grandparents. It is embodied in the students whose schools and universities have been closed by the occupying army with rocks and their red, green, black and white national banner. These people are creating alternatives, new ways of approaching old problems. They are, in the tradition of their occupiers, "creating new facts."

The people of the West Bank and Gaza have severed the power relationship that has governed their existence since the spectacular Israeli military victory in June 1967. For 20 years they essentially have proceeded on the seemingly uncontrollable premise that the occupier was invincible. Now, they have, for the first time, seized the initiative. A new power relationship is developing. Though it is in its primary stage, nevertheless we are witnessing nothing less than the birth of a nation. Palestinians are creating Palestine.

The challenge to the international NGO community and to the ICCP is to match the "iron will" of the people confronting the "Iron Fist" of military occupation with equal determination and resolve. Such resolve includes assisting those in peril, relating their story and mobilising the concerned global public behind a programme that ends the occupation and supports a viable peace process based on the United Nations-sponsored international peace conference — Middle East International, London.

OPEN FORUM

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We are not here to say some useless words or to pay false credits, we didn't gather just to have hours of fun or to say goodbye to friends.

We stand today for the sake of the past 12 years of our life, years that slipped away like magic. Precious years, during which we complained a lot, played a lot and were reprimanded a lot.

These were the glowing years of our lives. We lived them with all our dreams, with all the innocence and all the feelings that stirred within us. We cherished them far away from hatred or agony. They are the best because we gave our best. We formed everlasting friendships and learned the true meaning of being real people and honest, proud ones.

We are leaving a part of us in every single corner of this huge building, corners that will still hold the echo of our laughter for so many years to come.

We turn our backs, go on with our lives reluctant to look back because remembering special faces or shadows always tends to cause twinges of hurt to ripple throughout our hearts. We owe it to everyone, to every patient teacher, to every sweating worker, to every hand gleaming with the hardness of labour, to every gentle face we have grown fond of. We owe it to the memories we will be carrying with us, treasuring them for life. Memories with bright, happy colours, not a single one with a dark shade because they are too precious to be thrown aside. These memories could be a source of disappointment if they were tangled with blue stormy emotions. Let's always keep them locked in a cage of love and gratefulness.

Turning the pages of our lives, it's easy to admit that nobody influenced us more than the people of our second home. They helped us at the starting point when our knowledge didn't exceed the few elementary basis, and through critical stages they didn't cease to offer all the care our pleading selves needed. And at the final point they left planted in the soul of each one of us, the strong foundation of pure moral standards that oblige us to face facts and live without ending serious situations, oblivious to cost or danger.

They were always there for us when we would tumble and fall; to take our hands and help us stand straight and strong again.

We took our traces, carry our dreams and lock away the sadness. And into a long dark path we go, where nothing but the gifts they offered to every one of us; The gift of bravery and complete understanding of life. Only that can light our way to a new tomorrow, where unforeseen future is hidden.

To the cheer and joy of tomorrow, to the love of yesterday, to the truth and warmth of now we are here today.

Papers and pencils are inadequate ways and places to inscribe our real feelings, so I reduce the tears, the words and the time to one single phrase "Thank you."

Salam Mahadia

The writer is a Tawjih student at the Rosary College in Shmeisani. She delivered the above speech at her graduation ceremony on last Thursday.

Arab summit to reflect growing disillusion with Washington

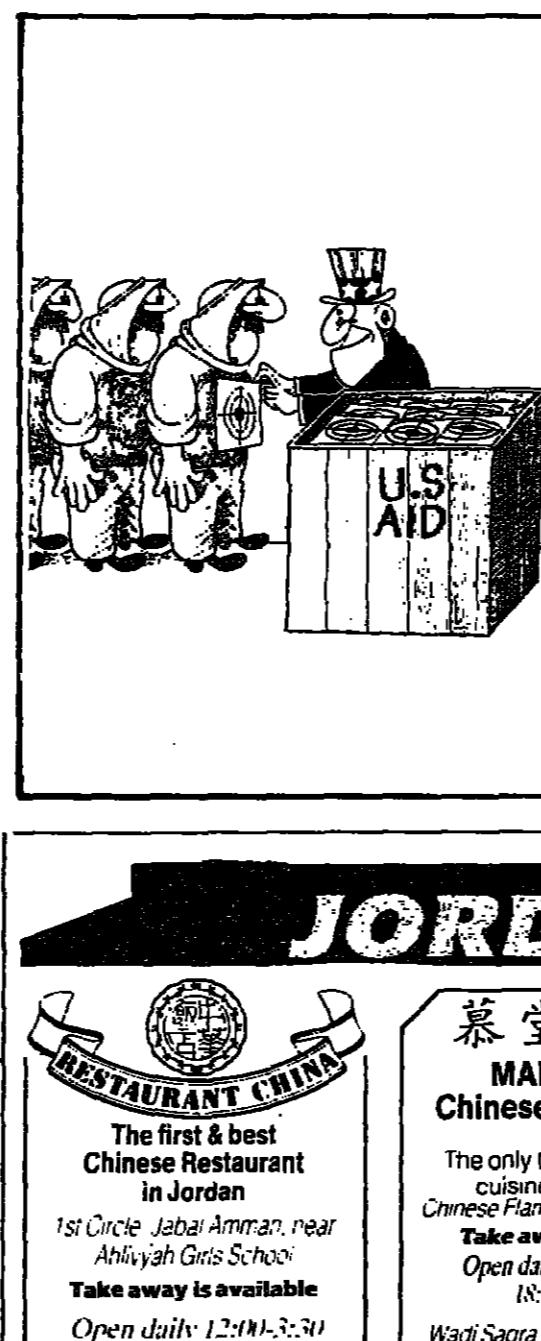
By John Fullerton
Reuter

the Palestine Liberation Organisation has been boosted by the uprising.

"Initially it was the hardline

Arabs denouncing the Shultz initiative as simply a way of trying to buy Israel time to suppress the protests," they said.

"Now there's a general feeling that Washington lacks sincerity and is only interested in its own and Israel's domestic elections."



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Israelis convicted of PLO meeting

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Four peace activists who met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members in Romania two years ago became the first Israelis Thursday convicted under a new law against contacts with "terrorist groups."

A magistrate's court in Ramle rejected defence arguments the meeting was legal since the two groups met to discuss Middle East peace and none of the PLO members was involved in "terrorist" activity.

The defendants could face up to three years in prison for holding the two-hour meeting with 15 Palestinians in the Romanian resort of Costinesti.

Israel passed a law in August 1986 barring contacts with the PLO.

The four were among 29 peace activists who defied government warnings and flew to Romania in November 1986 after a violent

confrontation at Tel Aviv airport with extremists.

The four Israelis — journalists Laif Dori and Yael Lotan, kibbutz collective settlement member Eliezer Feiler and peace activist Reuven Kaminer — said they would appeal.

A pre-sentence hearing was scheduled for June 19.

Dori, the group's leader, told reporters: "Another 98 Israelis have since met with the PLO in Geneva, Athens, Cyprus and Budapest."

"As far as we are concerned this is not an anti-terrorist law but a terroristic law aimed at denying dialogue for peace. We will continue to fight this law until it is abolished," Dori said.

Kaminer told Reuters: "It is a harsh-cut conviction but there are enough nuances even in this decision that give us some hope for the appeal."

Sabbah: Palestinians entitled to a state

OCCUPIED Jerusalem (AP) — Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the first Palestinian to be Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, told an Israeli army magazine Palestinians are entitled to have their own state.

The Israeli army weekly *Bamahane*, which carried the statements in its this week's issue, said it was Sabbah's first interview with an Israeli publication.

The Nazareth-born archbishop said the Vatican's refusal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel was caused by the Palestinian problem.

"The Vatican's position regarding Israel has always been that first of all the problem unresolved for 40 years must be solved," Sabbah said. "There is nothing theological in it."

"Everyone, as a human being,

is entitled to all the rights, including the right for a state. When this problem shall be solved, we would consider" establishing relations with Israel, he said.

"I think the stumbling block is that people don't want to solve the problem. If you have agreed that anyone has equal rights, the Palestinians as the Israelis, the problems would have been resolved. You need courage to recognise equal rights of all."

But Sabbah also indirectly criticised the often violent uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying that "from the church's point of view, every type of violence is bad, and people should avoid violence."

The archbishop expressed his belief that "if Israel talks to the Palestinians, everything will be all right."

Somali rebels say foreigners safe

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — The rebel Somali National Movement (SNM) said Thursday that expatriates stranded in areas of northern Somalia under rebel control were safe and it warned against any efforts by foreign troops to evacuate the expatriates.

Saeed Yusuf, SNM spokesman in Addis Ababa, said his guerrilla movement would cooperate only with an evacuation organised by the United Nations.

There are believed to be about 160 expatriates — including unspecified numbers of Americans, Britons and Frenchmen — in parts of northern Somalia that fell into rebel hands earlier this week.

There were reports Thursday that the United States and Britain intended to remove their nationals from Somalia. But none of the Africa-based diplomats for both countries contacted by the AP would verify those reports.

"We reject and warn against any form of intervention against this just war of liberation," Yusuf told the AP in an interview. "We are worried that this might be an

excuse to turn the evacuation into a kind of intervention. Our troops would have no choice but to stand against them."

The United States is Somalia's biggest ally and Britain was the former colonial ruler in northern Somalia.

The SNM claimed that it captured the main northern town of Hargeisa at noon Tuesday after a nine-hour battle. The following day, the rebels said they took Berbera, Somalia's main seaport and the site of a U.S. navy construction unit.

The Somalis government has denied the claims.

The government issued a statement Wednesday night specifically denying a report by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that the two towns had fallen to the rebels.

The government statement described the BBC report as "cheap and baseless propaganda aimed at confusing the public" and invited it to send an "impartial and truth-seeking reporter" to northern Somalia to observe the real situation there.

Palestinians begin 3-day strike

(Continued from page 1)

shut for three years an ironworks shop where Palestinians allegedly made sharp objects to damage the tyres of Israeli vehicles. Troops destroyed the room of a man they said confessed to throwing a firebomb at a patrol vehicle.

A firebomb was buried at the Al-Bireh municipal building Thursday night but caused no damage. In Hebron, unknown persons tried to set fire to an Israeli government employment office.

In the Gaza Strip, virtually all shops were closed, public transit was shut down and streets were still. Similar reports came from cities and towns in the West Bank.

In Bethlehem on the West Bank, Palestinian flags flew from electricity poles and normally

crowded Manger Square was deserted. "Observe the strike or we are going to burn," said a slogan painted on one wall.

Few of the 110,000 Palestinian workers who work in Israel reported to their jobs, according to Arab and Israeli media reports.

On Friday, curfews were also clamped on the towns of Shuweika, Jamain and Qalqilia in the West Bank, an army spokesman said. Eight other areas were declared closed military zones, meaning no one can go in or out.

An army spokesman said there were no troops in the area at the time of the shooting. He said police were investigating the incident.

Two Palestinians were wounded when soldiers opened fire on Palestinians demonstrating after prayers in the Hebron Casbah.

"Apparently politics cannot

reach a breakthrough because the plan he was promoting 'excludes the Palestinian nation and its legitimate representative, the PLO.'

"We will not succeed with his plan because it runs counter to the U.N. resolutions that recognise the Palestinian nation's right to an independent state on its national soil," Arafat said.

The PLO leader said the "main" of the Shultz mission was to protect Israel from the "turmoil" caused by the uprising and the steadfastness in South Lebanon.

Pushing Gorbachev's state-

ments on the Palestinian problem at the summit, Arafat said Gorbachev "defended the Palestinian case in front of President Reagan and stressed the necessity of recognising the security of all parties in the Middle East including the Palestinian nation, and not the security of one party (Israel), at the expense of another."

A senior PLO official said in Kuwait Thursday that Palestinians in the occupied territories would refuse to meet Shultz during his current tour.

"We say to Shultz on his coming trip, 'look in the occupied Palestinian homeland have been laid down by the uprising and it only needs time to be declared,'" Arafat said.

"The pillars of an independent

territory, you will not find any-one to meet you as a mediator,"

Dozens arrested in Iran for opposing war

LONDON (Agencies) — Iran has arrested leading moderate opponents of the government, including former ministers, for inviting people to oppose the war with Iraq, a former Iranian official said in London Thursday.

The source, a member of the government of ex-president Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, told Reuters security forces had detained leaders of the Freedom Movement and the National Front.

The two groups have campaigned against the excesses of the 1979 Islamic revolution and heavy-handed treatment of the opposition.

"I feel they could be in real danger," the source, an exile who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

He said Revolutionary Guards

Tuesday arrested Ali Ardalan, finance minister in the government of Mehdi Bazargan in 1979, ex-deputy Prime Minister Hossein Shah-Hosseini and Mohammad Tavasoli, a former mayor of Tehran.

Bazargan, the most prominent liberal opponent of Iran's clerical leadership, heads the Freedom Movement which has been allowed to function despite the crushing of all radical groups opposing the Iran government.

The guards broke up a Freedom Movement meeting Wednesday and arrested Hashem Sabaghian, Bazargan's interior minister and Khosrow Mansuri, a former deputy mayor of Tehran, the source said.

The guards had questioned about 200 people attending the meeting, and some had been beaten, the source added. They also took over the headquarters of the Freedom Movement.

An Iranian exiled source in Paris, who obtained a copy of a letter sent by Bazargan to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, said it was 33 pages long and was distributed in numerous cities around the country, likely about 10 days

ago. Another shorter letter by a group sympathising with Bazargan also was distributed, the source said, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity.

In the letter, Bazargan accused Khomeini of following an "erroneous policy" in the war with Iraq, isolating the Islamic republic and making it a symbol of hate around the world.

Bazargan also denounced aid allegedly furnished by the Islamic republic to groups such as the Islamic Jihad, which claims to be holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

"In truth, for seven years Iran and Islam have become synonymous in the world with hate and malice," Le Monde quoted the letter as saying. "It is a shame and not an honour..."

"When are you going to stop making commerce with the blood of our martyrs?"

Le Monde said it was thought that several dozen people were arrested in Tehran, and provincial cities like Tabriz, in Azerbaijan, and Isfahan, south of the capital.

Bazargan was among a group of liberals who boycotted Iranian parliamentary elections in April, which they said were not free.

The source said those arrested had in the last two weeks mounted a pamphlet campaign advocating a peaceful negotiated solution to Iran's war with Iraq, calling for an end to repression in Iran and criticising the legitimacy and economic policies of the government.

The banned National Front, founded by former Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and the Freedom Movement formed a moderate group two years ago to oppose the government's policies.

One of the pamphlets distributed throughout Iran called for people to "raise their voice" against the government.

Maghreb states look to Algiers Arab summit for greater unity

RABAT (R) — North African states hope next week's Arab summit in Algiers will bring closer to reality an age-old dream of a powerful regional grouping and hasten the end of a long-running war in the Western Sahara.

After the sudden resumption May 16 of diplomatic relations between the region's two power brokers, Morocco and Algeria, the portents for some form of pan-Maghreb economic link-up have never looked so good, according to diplomats.

The two neighbours took a further step towards that goal Tuesday by announcing the reopening of their borders, the restoration of sea, rail and air links and that visas would no longer be needed for cross-border travel.

Diplomats said the speed of the move highlighted the importance both countries now attach to bilateral relations.

It also ended speculation that the revival of diplomatic ties was

merely a ploy to persuade Morocco's King Hassan to attend the summit, which opens June 7 and has been called to rally support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

King Hassan cut relations 12 years ago over Algeria's military and diplomatic support for Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony, Western Sahara.

The diplomatic dispute is unresolved but there has been a new warmth in exchanges.

"The success of a summit in the capital of any North African country is a success for all countries in the region," King Hassan said in a broadcast on state television Monday.

Morocco wanted to forget the past and "to build the future on positive grounds, because hatred and grudge cannot ever be the sound basis on which to build the future," he added.

The King will personally seal the reconciliation when he arrives in Algiers for talks with President Chadli Benjedid Sunday.

Diplomats said Algiers would now see a regional settlement of the Western Sahara conflict.

"If they could save face and at the same time get off the Polisario hook, they would do so whether or not the Polisario accepted the deal," one Western diplomat told Reuters.

"The president believes sincerely in greater Maghreb unity and wants to make real progress towards achieving it. It makes sense, we live in a world of growing economic blocs," one Algerian diplomatic source recently told Reuters.

Western diplomats say this view fits uneasily with the Polisario's demand for a sixth independent state in the region but

dent state in the region but Algiers now accepts that its support should take second place to economic needs.

The bottom line is that its relations with Morocco are more important. A gas pipeline across North Africa, cheap imports of fruit and vegetables, carry more weight than ideological support for a group of nomads," one diplomat said.

All the countries in the region are acutely aware of how they will be affected by European Economic Community plans to create a unified barrier-free internal market by 1992 which will make it more difficult for them to sell in Europe.

But with a total population of some 56 million, the five North African countries can offer each other markets they badly need, and the King and Benjedid, may be joined by the leaders of Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya in a Maghreb summit in Algiers.

Habre agrees to meet Qadhafi

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chadian President Hissene Habre has agreed to hold talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to patch up relations strained by a 15-year border conflict, a Chadian government statement said Thursday.

The decision was taken Wednesday at a special joint meeting of cabinet ministers and party officials under the chairmanship of Habre to review last week's Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Ethiopia.

At the time of the OAU meeting, Qadhafi announced recognition of Habre's government and invited him to the Libyan capital Tripoli for a national reconciliation meeting with Goukouni Oueddei, Habre's long-standing political foe in the south.

The N'djamena statement, read over the state radio by Information Minister Moussa Adamou Seiff, said Chadian favoured a normalisation of ties with Libya and a meeting between Habre and Qadhafi.

It did not say where and when the meeting would take place and did not mention Goukouni.

But Habre has already ruled out meeting Chadian opponents outside Chad, accusing Qadhafi of meddling in his country's politics.

While in Addis Ababa, Habre said he would be willing to meet Qadhafi only in the context of the OAU's attempt to mediate in the border dispute between the two countries.

Thursday's statement did not specifically refer to the dispute over Aouzou, a 110,000 square-kilometre stretch of border territory claimed by both countries.

An OAU-brokered truce halted fighting between Chad and Libya last year in the desert strip occupied by Libya since 1973.

The Chadian statement said the OAU summit represented "an important step in the search for a peaceful settlement to the Chad-Libya dispute."

The Addis Ababa meeting extended the mandate of a special OAU committee on the dispute, which is chaired by Gabon.

proceeded without missteps and mistakes," the newspaper said in a generally favourable review of the meeting.

Pravda said the U.S. approach, which it called a "policy of strength," blocked progress on some issues, including extending the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty and limiting sea-launched cruise missiles in a nuclear weapons accord.

"But politics is the art of the possible, and if agreement has not been achieved on some points, this does not diminish the significance and importance of the work done and the results achieved," it said.

"The Soviet-American summit meeting which has just closed in Moscow has truly become a milestone from which the count of the era of real nuclear disarmament will be started," said the article by Arkady Mastenkov, a well-known political commentator.

World leaders generally hailed the Moscow summit as a success, praising Reagan and Gorbachev for achieving what could realistically have been expected of them.

Commentators said a new era had opened in East-West relations but some pointed out that although solid progress was made, major tasks still lay ahead on arms control and other issues.

The results of the unprecedented fourth superpower summit were warmly received both in East and West and by the heads of international organisations.

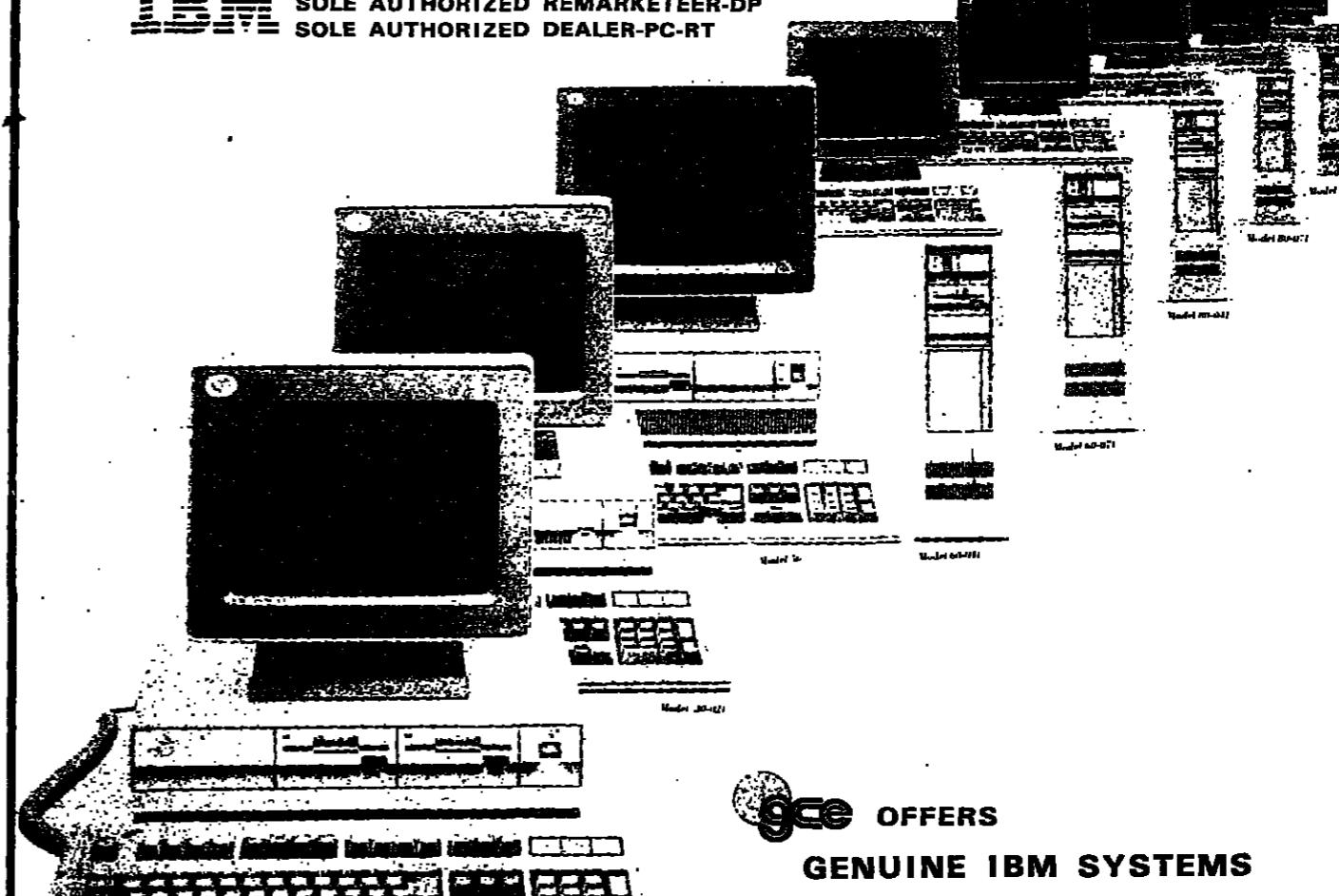
Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said a Soviet-American balance of power could not guarantee security for all.

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Demand for dollar mounts

Foreign exchange ambiguity grips Jordanian market

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — After exactly one month, the domestic exchange market witnessed a replay of the May 2 sudden upsurge in the value of the dollar Thursday, as heavy demand pushed the American currency unit from the 365 fils mark the day before to 390 fils, bankers and market sources told the Jordan Times Friday.

They blamed the dollar's hike on ambiguous government monetary policies, pending new foreign exchange measures, rumours of devaluation, and reports of shortages in foreign currencies.

Bankers and financiers urged the government and the central bank to act promptly to restore confidence in the Jordan dinar.

Michel Marto

The dollar hovered around 382.5 fils Friday.

"People are very very panicky," said Bank of Jordan General Manager Michel Marto. "They think there will be a devaluation (of the dinar) and that there is a shortage of foreign currencies."

He said that over the last week, some of his clients were "withdrawing their deposits to buy foreign currencies. They want to buy dollars. All of a sudden, everybody wants to buy foreign currency."

"None of this is called for," he explained. "The government and the central bank have made it clear they are against devaluation. As for foreign currencies, they are very much available."

He said that Thursday morning, the market was calm. At the start, the dollar reached 370 fils.

"Then the rumours spread later in the day, people panicked," he said. "Moneychangers who wanted to maximise their profits, precipitated the problem and largely contributed to the panic."

An authoritative source close to the central bank told the Jordan Times the price jump was caused by illegal transfers of money outside the country. The

He said that reports of pending central bank foreign exchange regulations, or the reinforcement of existing but loose regulations would not be effective at this point.

"Such regulations would not be effective because it is the government's borrowing and spending and not the private sector's which is depleting most of our foreign reserves," Funek contended.

Maher Shukri

CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri told the Jordan Times last month that the central bank was working on "simplifying foreign exchange procedures" and on introducing a new version of foreign exchange regulations. He did not elaborate.

Banking sources said that one of the new regulations may involve commercial banks depositing a percentage of their foreign exchange deposits with the central bank.

Bankers interviewed by the Jordan Times said they welcomed such a move by the central bank and that they were willing to oblige.

A Jordanian market observer, summarising his views on government monetary policies, cited a quote by John Williamson, published recently by Time magazine.

Williamson, a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute for International Economics, said: "The lesson all central bankers have learned is that if you don't do what is necessary in the short run, you lose financial confidence, which is very difficult to restore."

The observer said it was "up to the central bank to realise the same."

In addition to present uncertainties in the domestic exchange market, the U.S. dollar value on world markets was boosted by last week's announcement of a reduction in the U.S. trade deficit. Unemployment figures released Friday in the U.S. added another boost for the dollar against other currencies, mainly the Japanese yen and the Deutsche mark. The dollar reached DM 1.73 Friday in international markets.

The over 6.5 per cent dollar price jump, if sustained, may prompt an intervention by the central bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday, unless commercial banks disposed themselves to cover the demand for foreign currencies, market observers said.

Marto said there will be no need for a CBJ intervention.

Fahed Fanek

Economics analyst and columnist Fahed Fanek told the Jordan Times the central bank and the government appear to be ignoring the problem, leaving the situation to further deteriorate.

"The problem itself is not big," Fanek said. "But its repetition and implications are dangerous in terms of confidence in the Jordan dinar and its convertibility."

Industrial shares dominate trading

AMMAN (Petra) — Last week's average daily trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) amounted to JD 283.225. The overall trading volume stood at JD 1,416,128 and the total number of shares traded was 1,398,529 concluded through 1,825 transactions according to the AFM's weekly bulletin.

The bulletin said that the industrial sector acquired the lion's share of the volume, accounting for JD 838,925 or 59.3 per cent of the total.

The banks and financial institutions came second with traded shares worth JD 464,865 or nearly 32.9 per cent of the total volume.

The services sector followed at some 6.7 per cent of the volume of trading, and the insurance sector acquired only 1.3 per cent.

The bulletin said that banks and services shares showed a decline in value; but those of the

industrial sector maintained their stability.

The closing price index stood at 113.5 points, down from 114.1 points at the opening of the start of the business week, thus registering a decline of 0.6 points.

Shares of 63 companies exchanged hands in the past week of which 15 showed an improvement in prices while shares of 33 others showed a drop in value, according to the bulletin.



Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan (centre) exchanges documents with the general manager of the American company (Petra photo)

U.S. firm wins big Aqaba job

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — An American firm has won a \$4 million contract to build a maritime communications station at the port of Aqaba within 12 months from now. The contract, signed in Amman Thursday, also stipulates training Jordanian personnel and technicians and providing necessary equipment for operations.

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al

Haj Hassan signed the agreement with the firm's general manager and said that the station is expected to be one of the most modern in the Middle East area.

The minister added that the station will offer services to oil tankers, passenger ships and cargo vessels that might be docking at the harbour or in the vicinity of the Red Sea or the Indian Ocean and the eastern coasts of Africa.

The new station will benefit the

national economy and serve as an incentive for world maritime companies to increase their operations through Aqaba port, the minister said.

In September 1987, the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC), which is to supervise the operation, signed a contract with a local company to pave the ground for the communications station project.

Islamic investment companies in Egypt face new controls

CAIRO (R) — Government moves to control Egypt's Islamic investment firms could threaten the savings of millions of small investors, Cairo bankers said Thursday.

The bankers fear that draft legislation, which will give companies a year to issue investment deeds to depositors, may lead to a run that could bring the system tumbling down.

Controversy over the Islamic investment companies, which together control billions of dollars of savings, has already set tremors through Egypt's financial markets.

President Hosni Mubarak discussed the new laws with top advisers Wednesday. The draft law pledges that the state will not interfere with the daily running of the companies. Cairo newspapers said Thursday.

Owners of the companies believe fixed interest is forbidden according to Islam. They offer a risk-sharing scheme instead, with depositors facing losses as well as profits.

The firms have paid over 20 per cent returns, compared to a maximum of 13 per cent offered by the banks, but bankers say the companies use new deposits to pay past depositors.

The new bill stipulates that monthly payments must accrue from genuine profits and not retracted capital, the newspapers said.

The bill would give Islamic investment companies three months to notify the government whether they will continue business under the new system, the papers reported.

Some of the larger firms have temporarily stopped transactions.

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Performance 3, 30, 6, 10, 8, 30, 10, 30

Salman

Mavericks beat Lakers to tie NBA playoffs

DALLAS (R) — Mark Aguirre had 23 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 105-103 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Thursday to tie the National Basketball Association's (NBA) best-of-seven Western Conference final at three games each.

Game seven will be played at the Los Angeles forum on either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the result of the Eastern Conference finals.

Roland Blackman had 22 points for the Mavericks, who have won all three of their home games. The Lakers won three times in Los Angeles.

For the Lakers, James Worthy and Byron Scott each had 27 points, with Worthy missing a desperation layup five seconds before the buzzer, which would have tied the score.

The Lakers led 26-25 at the quarter, and Dallas led 53-50 at the half. The Mavericks had a two-point advantage 82-80 at the end of three quarters.

Both teams scored 23 points in the fourth quarter.

IOC chief ready to visit North Korea to settle Olympic dispute

SEOUL (R) — Olympic Chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said Thursday he was prepared to visit Pyongyang in a last ditch attempt to persuade North Korea to compete in the Seoul Games.

At an airport news conference which followed a four-day visit to Seoul, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president set conditions for Pyongyang, which virtually ruled out any chance of North Korean participation.

The North has refused to send any athletes to Seoul because the IOC has refused its demand to be co-host.

Samaranch's statement that he was willing to visit Pyongyang followed meetings with key South Korean opposition politicians and dissident leaders Thursday.

During Samaranch's breakfast meeting with opposition leaders some 100 radical students demonstrated outside his Seoul hotel demanding that the IOC should allow Pyongyang to share the Olympics. Almost 70 students were arrested when riot police broke up the demonstration.

Last week, after violent protests in Seoul demanding a jointly-staged Olympics, the IOC reiterated its position that Pyongyang's demand ran counter to the Olympic charter.

Samaranch himself presided over four rounds of talks between North and South Korea in 1986 and 1987 in a fruitless attempt to reach a compromise.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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CONDONING A CRIME

Both vulnerable, East deals.

NORTH
♦ A J 9 5
♦ A J 8 2
♦ 10 2
♦ 9 3
WEST ♦ 6 ♦ EAST
♦ Q 4 3 ♦ 7 6 2
♦ Q 5 ♦ 10 7
♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 3 ♦ A
♦ 6 ♦ ♦ A K J 8 7 5 4
SOUTH
♦ K 10
♦ K 9 6 4 3
♦ K 6 5
♦ Q 10 2

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Dbl
3 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
Don't play bridge by rule. The bromides you learned at your mother's knee cover general situations, and they should never be allowed to replace common sense.

Since North's double promised both major suits, South judged his hand as being too good for three hearts, which might sound as if it were only competitive. His jump to game ended the auction.

West led his singleton club. East won the king and declarer shrewdly dropped the ten. Since a diamond ruff seemed like a good idea, East cashed the ace of diamonds, then had to decide how to continue.

Since he did not know who held the deuce of clubs, East led the ace. West discarded a diamond, and declarer was in control. When the queen of trumps appeared on the second lead of the suit, declarer claimed the balance.

Now we, too, were taught that you should never trump your partner's ace. However, West could be reasonably certain his partner held a singleton ace of diamonds, and also knew he had no fast entry to his hand in a side suit. Yet the only way he could defeat the contract was by giving his partner a ruff.

Even though West had the deepest respect for his mother and the advice she tendered, this was the time to ignore it. The simple and sure way to gain the lead was to trump his partner's ace of clubs. That, and the diamond ruff at the next trick, would have garnered the four tricks necessary to defeat the game.

Fay offered to postpone his challenge from this September until May 1989 if San Diego agreed to abandon its plans to use a catamaran to defend the cup until next year and dictate new guidelines for boat design.

San Diego officials reacted in a press release to a proposal Fay made to New York supreme court judge Carmen Ciparick Wednesday.

Fay offered to postpone his challenge from this September until May 1989 if San Diego agreed to abandon its plans to use a catamaran to defend the cup until next year and dictate new guidelines for boat design.

Fay asked Ciparick last week to ban San Diego's much faster and smaller catamaran from the cup challenge series.

He said the America's Cup would become the "America's joke" if the catamaran were allowed to defend the cup San Diego won from Australia last year.

Fay, in San Diego for sea trials with his boat, told Reuters Thurs-

day before San Diego rejected his proposal that his offer had not been made to San Diego but to judge Ciparick, who had asked if Fay would give San Diego more time to build a mono-hulled boat if she outlawed the catamaran.

"I think it's a question of what the court will do. The options are in front of the court and it is up to the judge," Fay said.

He said his challenge, made through the Mercury Bay Boating Club, was aimed at giving all

challengers for the cup "as much freedom as anybody could want... by not putting design restrictions on people but at the same time making sure that we have the essence of a match which is the two same boats out there."

Fay, interviewed in his dockside offices, said the offer was "more of a response to the judge's inquiry and it's more in response to putting forward something in terms of our priorities which have always been... a successful America's Cup match out there on the water."

But San Diego retorted that changing course now would mean all the club's time, effort and money had been wasted.

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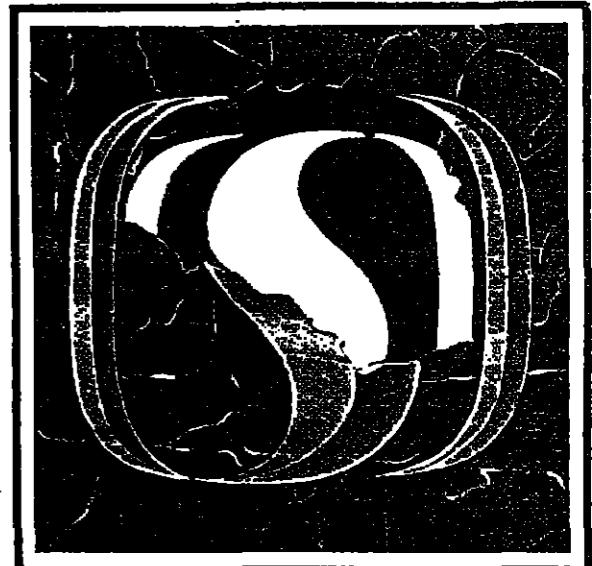
The intensive course lasts one month — 36 hours.

Classes: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

For beginners classes are open between 5 and 7 p.m. and for those with some knowledge of Spanish, between 3 and 5 p.m.

For more information call the secretariat, the Spanish Cultural Centre, tel: 624049 from 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

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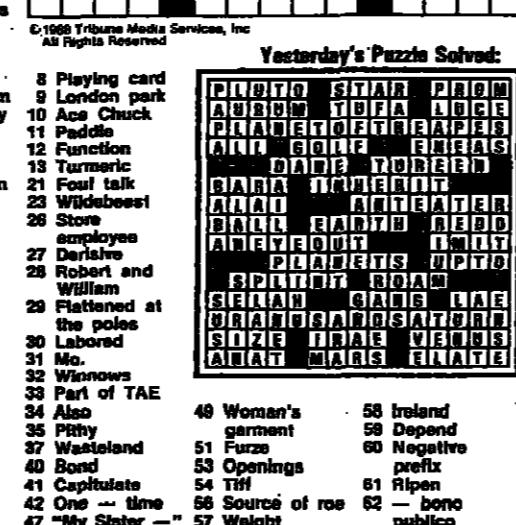
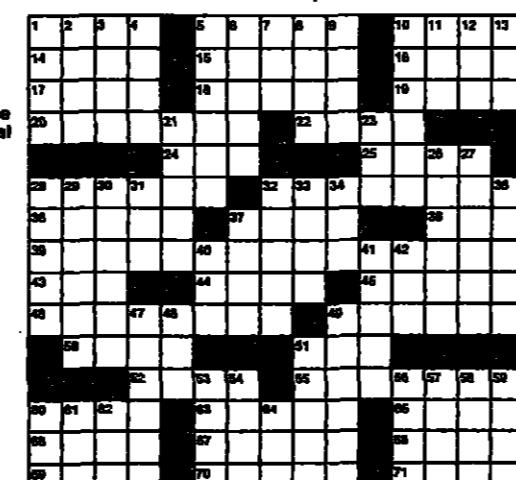
By Harris



HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword

by Robert O. Wilson



Peanuts

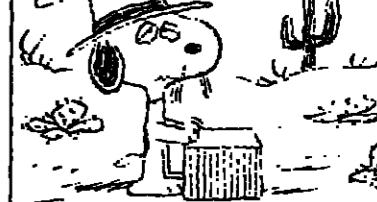
THE ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING OF THE CACTUS CLUB
WILL COME TO ORDER...



THE BUILDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS THAT THE BANK
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FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS TO
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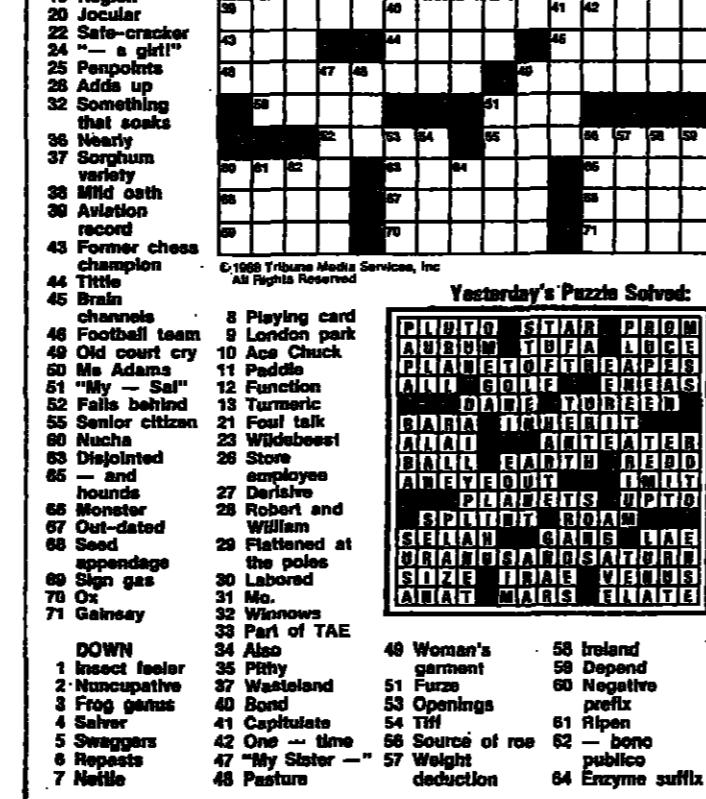
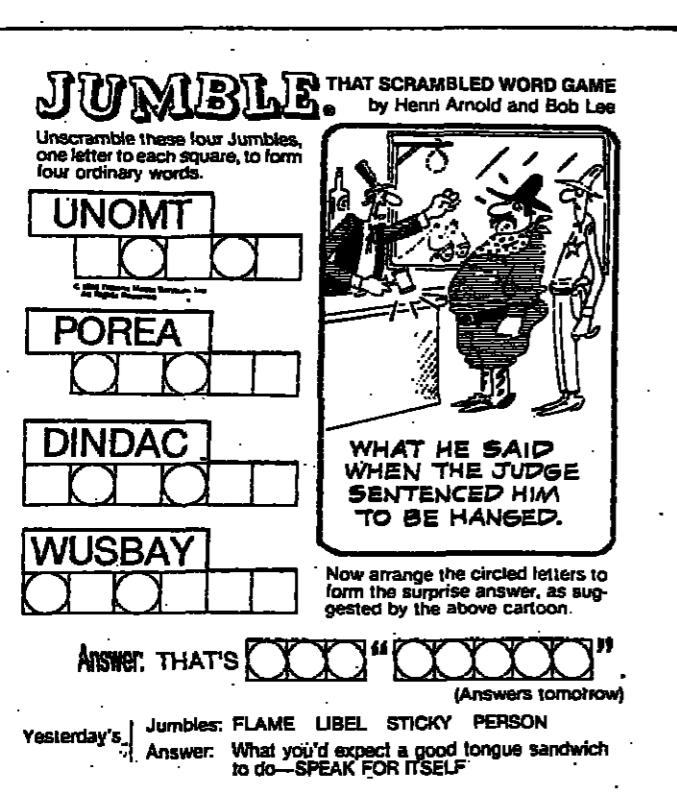
MAINLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T
HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK...



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Opposition parties allege election fraud in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's opposition parties said Friday the June 2 provincial elections were marked by widespread fraud by the ruling party which won a majority of seats.

Colvin de Silva, leader of the Socialist Party, which forms part of a leftist coalition, blamed the United National Party (UNP) for alleged irregularities. But UNP chairman Ranjan Wijeratne denied the allegations.

"There must be concrete evidence that the UNP did it. They're not just blame us," he told reporters.

The UNP won in the latest round of elections to semi-autonomous councils in central and eastern provinces. At least six people were killed in violence led by police to a Sinhalese anarchist group.

The victory gives the UNP control of six of the island's nine provinces for which elections have been held so far! The southern province votes on June 9.

"The election yesterday was

agerry-ridden and impersonal

and was conducted in atmosphere of complete fear and intimidation," De Silva told reporters.

Police blamed the People's Liberation Front, a Sinhalese-backed Marxist group, for attacking polling stations with guns and bombs and setting fire to trains, buses and government buildings, an attempt to disrupt the poll.

The UNP won 35 seats in the central province with the United Socialist Alliance, a coalition of four leftist parties, trailing with

the two-month-old Sri Lanka Muslim Congress took three seats.

The UNP got 52 in the western

province, the Alliance 42, the Congress 36, and the Liberal party, a new group, gained two.

Wijeratne said the UNP could

have gained more seats if its supporters had not been intimidated by front threats.

Pieter Keuneman, leader of the communist Party that forms part of the Alliance, told reporters someone impersonated him at a polling station in Colombo.

He said the election presiding officer at the voting centre noted protests made by the Islamic polling agent.

M. H. Ashraff, leader of the two-month-old Muslim Congress, said his party had lodged a protest to the elections department against men seen holding bundles

of polling cards at a polling station in Colombo and handing them out to voters.

"I blame the government for these tricks," he said.

Liberal Party leader Chanaka Amarasinghe wrote to the department about alleged impersonations and unauthorized possession of voting cards by persons at another polling booth in Colombo.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said he had directed the police to investigate into the complaints.

Despite the front threats and the violence about 55 per cent of the eligible 3.6 million voters cast

their ballots.

Suspected Sinhalese extremists killed two candidates in southern province elections and burned government buildings Friday, a day after trying unsuccessfully to disrupt voting, police said.

One victim belonged to the ruling United National Party and the other to a Communist Alliance, police in Colombo said.

The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had no further details on the killings.

The officers said at least 75 cases of arson were reported in the southern province, which is scheduled to hold elections for local government councils June 9. The targets were government buildings and electricity and telephone posts, he said.

The violence erupted hours after officials announced results of elections Thursday in the western and central provinces.

New Caledonians discuss partition plan

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — A proposal is under discussion to partition the strife-torn Pacific territory of New Caledonia into separate zones for pro-French loyalists and separatist Melanesians, according to a leading local politician.

Loyalist leader Jacques Lafleur said in a series of interviews that autonomous districts would coexist for a 10-year transition period and then a referendum would be held to decide the territory's ultimate fate.

The revelation came as both sides in the south Pacific Islands east of Australia expressed willingness to start a dialogue to end weeks of tension between the mainly white loyalists and the separatists.

Nineteen Kanaks (ethnic Melanesians) were killed May 5, in an assault by French security forces on a jungle cavern where a contingent of gendarmes was being held hostage.

Allegations that the French military may have killed up to three Kanaks after the end of hostilities have raised tension. A murder probe to investigate the charges is in hand.

Lafleur told the Figaro newspaper that he opposed partition

but there was no alternative to it since the two communities were opposed.

"A bad accord is better than civil war," said Lafleur, who heads the loyalist rally for Caledonia in the Republic Party and is a staunch opponent of the Socialists.

The Figaro said the partition proposal was being aired by an exploratory mission sent to New Caledonia by new Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Rocard's office declined to comment on the reported partition plan and a spokeswoman said the prime minister was waiting for the mission to report back to him. The six-man team includes two clerics, a freemason and experts on the area.

Lafleur said he was ready to meet separatist leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou provided the Kanaks abandoned violence.

Tjibaou, leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) which is demanding full independence, welcomed the loyalist leader's invitation, but said it was up to the government to organise a meeting.

Asked about the partition idea, Tjibaou said: "If the transition period can lead to independence, we are agreed."

Opposition Social Democratic leader Svend Auken, who failed to form his own coalition with the radicals, told journalists: "It will be one of the weakest governments we have ever seen. This will be a government term marked by instability."

The new administration, with only 67 seats in the 179-seat parliament, replaces Schlüter's four-party coalition which had ruled Denmark since 1982.

Schlüter called the May election after parliament approved an opposition Social Democratic resolution to give visiting ships a written reminder that they are not allowed to carry nuclear weapons into Danish ports.

The prime minister said this threatened Denmark's membership of the NATO alliance because it ran counter to the policy of allies Britain and the United States not to divulge whether individual ships carried atomic arms.

Politicians each from the two Koreas.

South Korea rejected the North Korean proposals as an "unrealistic political offensive."

Lee's proposal came amid mounting opposition demands in South Korea that the Seoul government make concessions to persuade North Korea to take part in the Olympics.

North Korea has said it would boycott the Olympics unless it was made a co-host to the games opening on Sept. 17. The International Olympic Committee and South Korea rejected the co-hosting demand.

Lee said the proposed talks would discuss, among other things, North Korea's participation in this fall's Olympics in Seoul, exchanges of people from all walks of life and the opening of old channels of dialogue suspended in 1986.

Government officials said South Korea informed North Korea Tuesday that it would hand over the letter at the truce village of Panmunjom Friday, but North Korea refused to receive it.

The proposed talks, Lee said,

Seoul proposes high-level discussions with the North

would be held either in Seoul or Pyongyang, the two Korean capitals, "at an early date, preferably within June."

Delegations of the two sides would consist of about five officials each and be headed by a cabinet minister, Lee said.

The talks, if held, would be the first inter-Korea contact since the spring of 1986 when North Korea unilaterally suspended all dialogue with South Korea, citing joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

Lee said the proposed talks would discuss, among other things, North Korea's participation in this fall's Olympics in Seoul, exchanges of people from all walks of life and the opening of old channels of dialogue suspended in 1986.

North Korea has been pushing its own proposal for political talks with South Korea, to be attended by 50 government and opposition



Schlüter forms new coalition

COPENHAGEN (R) — Danish conservative leader Poul Schlüter formed a new three-party coalition government Friday which the opposition predicted would be one of the weakest ever seen in the country.

The centre-right minority government, formed after more than three weeks of talks since an inconclusive election May 10, is a coalition of the conservative and liberal parties with the small radical Liberal Party, a newcomer to the administration.

One of Schlüter's first tasks will be to tackle the issue of tightening a ban on nuclear weapons aboard visiting North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ships, which sparked off the election.

Opposition Social Democratic leader Svend Auken, who failed to form his own coalition with the radicals, told journalists: "It will be one of the weakest governments we have ever seen. This will be a government term marked by instability."

The new administration, with only 67 seats in the 179-seat parliament, replaces Schlüter's four-party coalition which had ruled Denmark since 1982.

Schlüter called the May election after parliament approved an opposition Social Democratic resolution to give visiting ships a written reminder that they are not allowed to carry nuclear weapons into Danish ports.

The prime minister said this threatened Denmark's membership of the NATO alliance because it ran counter to the policy of allies Britain and the United States not to divulge whether individual ships carried atomic arms.

Politicians each from the two Koreas.

South Korea rejected the North Korean proposals as an "unrealistic political offensive."

Lee's proposal came amid mounting opposition demands in South Korea that the Seoul government make concessions to persuade North Korea to take part in the Olympics.

North Korea has said it would boycott the Olympics unless it was made a co-host to the games opening on Sept. 17. The International Olympic Committee and South Korea rejected the co-hosting demand.

Lee said the proposed talks would discuss, among other things, North Korea's participation in this fall's Olympics in Seoul, exchanges of people from all walks of life and the opening of old channels of dialogue suspended in 1986.

Government officials said South Korea informed North Korea Tuesday that it would hand over the letter at the truce village of Panmunjom Friday, but North Korea refused to receive it.

The proposed talks, Lee said,

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

S. African prisoners start hunger strike

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A bomb apparently hidden in a bus exploded Friday outside a bank office, killing four people and injuring 19, police said. It is the deadliest bombing in South Africa in a year. The lunch-hour blast occurred inside a branch of the Standard Bank in Roodepoort, a city bordering the west side of Johannesburg. A police spokesman, Major Irene Halgraves, said those killed included three black men and a woman whose race was not immediately known. Halgraves said eight people were seriously injured, including two whites and six blacks. He said 11 other people suffered lesser injuries. The blast shattered at least a dozen windows in the bank, and glass was strewn across a nearby intersection in Roodepoort's central business district. Police cordoned off the area.

The proposed talks, Lee said,

Woman sets herself alight in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — An unidentified woman set fire to herself Friday in Moscow's Red Square, an eyewitness said. Alan Kyte, an engineer with the international television news agency VISNEWS, said he saw the woman engulfed in flames and waving her arms wildly near the main entrance to the Kremlin before police rushed up and wrapped her in a blanket. Police declined to comment on the incident. Moscow dissident Sergei Grigoryants said that in February a 50-year-old mother of four set herself alight near the reception rooms of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) to protest against the fact that she was homeless. He did not know whether she survived. On Thursday, about 30 homeless people from various provincial towns held a demonstration on the edge of Red Square which was broken up by police. Grigoryants added.

Indonesia dismisses trespassing charges

TANJUNG PINANG, Indonesia (R) — An Indonesian court Thursday dismissed charges against a group of foreign scuba divers who have been held for the past 10 weeks for trespassing in Indonesia's waters. Presiding Judge Munzir Syarkawish rejected the prosecution charges and upheld objections by the defence counsel that they constituted a defamation of the accused. Prosecutor Halim Hosen said he would consider appealing against the verdict. They were all detained at gunpoint March 22 when their boat was escorted into Tanjung Pinang harbour, about 100 kilometres south-east of Singapore by an Indonesian patrol vessel. The prosecution charged they had entered Indonesian waters illegally and were conducting scientific research in Indonesia's restricted offshore economic zone without the necessary authorisation. The 10, who denied they were treasure hunters, said they were on a week-long scuba diving holiday and were in international waters when they were picked up.

Harmless AIDS strain discovered

TOKYO (R) — Scientists at Tokyo University believe they have discovered a harmless strain of the AIDS virus in African monkeys, the leader of the research team said Thursday. Professor Masanori Hayami told Reuters in a telephone interview that differences between the harmless virus, found in African green monkeys, and the lethal human virus could help determine why AIDS kills. One gene found in the viruses which make humans develop the AIDS disease is missing in the monkey strain, he said. "So we think that it is just possible that gene could be responsible for causing humans to develop AIDS," said Hayami. The research team has been working on the genetic make-up of the AIDS virus for two years and the June 2 edition of the international science journal Nature, published in London, carried a paper on their findings.

23 bodies uncovered in W. German mine blast

BORKEN, West Germany (R)

— Two days after explosions ravaged a West German colliery, rescue teams have winched to the surface the bodies of 23 of the 57 miners killed, rescue officials said on Friday.

In only two cases so far were bodies so badly damaged that the force of the blast was the most likely cause of death.

A special room has been set up 60 metres underground to coordinate the search. Officials said they hoped the remaining 21 bodies could be recovered by the end of the day after new parts of the mine have been ventilated.

Salcher said the question of criminal damage against the mine's owners, Preussenelektra, had not yet been considered.

Rescue workers told reporters

folded in sleeping positions.

Others had apparently tried vainly to put on special breathing apparatus but the equipment would only have given them extra air for a few more hours.

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criminal damage against the

mine's owners, Preussenelektra, had not yet been considered.

Philippine marines raid village

MANILA (R) — Marines

stormed a southern Philippine

village and freed 15 hostages held

by Muslim separatist rebels for

five days, the military said

Friday.

One rebel was wounded in an

exchange of fire before the guerrillas fled by boat from the village

of Tandu Point in Zamboanga del Sur province Thursday, military spokesman Major Lauriano Palana said.

The hostages — fishermen and their wives — were unharmed, he said.

The Moro National Liberation

Front, which is seeking independence in southern Mindanao Island, had demanded 1,000 pesos (\$50) from each hostage in exchange for their freedom.

In Quezon province south of Manila, communist rebels hijacked a train, raided a farm and kidnapped four army lieutenants in separate attacks Wednesday, the military said. There were no reports of casualties.

The news agency said the militants extorted money from the victims' families on the false promise that they would be freed.

Sikh militants have been blamed for killing more than 1,240 people in northern Punjab state this year in their battle for an independent homeland.

More than 200 militants surrendered after the 10-day siege of the temple. At least 46 people, mainly Sikhs, were killed in shooting during the siege.

The police continue to maintain a cordon around the shrine to try to ensure that militants do not sneak back into the temple again.

Militants who surrendered af-

ter their release.

South Korea, the United States, Norway, Switzerland and other countries were represented at the conference as observers. Bolivia was invited but turned down the invitation, citing budgetary constraints.

Portuguese president Mario So